

TOWN/COMMERCIAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

First Floor Meeting Room, Amherst Town Hall

Members present: Leslie Ariola, Jeffrey Blaustein, Jeffrey Krauth, Michael Jacques, Barry Roberts, Tony Maroulis, Mark Parent (chair), Nina Wishengrad
Others present: Stephanie O'Keeffe, Select Board; Jonathan Tucker, Planning Director; Jeff Bagg, Senior Planner (staff person for ZBA)
Not present: Yuri Friman

The meeting came to order at 5:47 p.m.

1. **Permit Review Meetings:** overview of recent meetings

Some observations of recent ZBA meetings were discussed.

It was agreed that the Select Board should be apprised of progress and problems that have been observed at ZBA hearings.

Motion: The TCRC will draft an executive summary of comments about its months of observations of the ZBA, and forward to the ZBA, Design Review and Select Board.

Passed 7-0-1.

2. **Future of TCRC**

Continue monitoring of ZBA.

TCRC will attempt to have a member present at all ZBA and Planning Board public meetings.

The possibilities of ACTV televising ZBA hearings was discussed.

Staff was requested to add committee members to Notices for all meetings. A schedule of coverage by committee members will be prepared to provide a primary and alternate at each meeting.

3. **New Business**

a.) Parking Commission

Ms. O'Keeffe discussed issues of parking restrictions during town events. C of C and TCRC will be informed of these situations

Motion: To have Mr. Maroulis represent TCRC on Parking Commission. Passed unanimously.

b.) Select Board - Ms. O'Keeffe suggested that new initiatives be presented to the Select Board for its input.

c.) Permitting/Inspection Process

1.) There was discussion of Fire Department inspections and possibility of town outsourcing this function in the future.

2.) There was discussion of the unacceptable amount of time that the permitting process takes. In some cases, businesses are locating in Hadley, because the process there is less cumbersome and more helpful.

3.) It was agreed that there should be a checklist, so that individuals seeking to build or open a business establishment in Amherst will know the steps involved and people to speak to relative to the process. Michael Jacques agreed to chair sub committee.

Next meeting, December 10, 2009 @ 5:45 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey D. Blaustein